

**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a process of preparing a printing plate from a printing plate material comprising a support, and provided thereon, an image formation layer, the process comprising the steps of fixing the printing plate material onto a fixing member with suction through-holes by suction that evacuates air through the suction through-holes, the surface (rear surface) of the support opposite the image formation layer facing the fixing member, and then imagewise exposing the fixed printing plate material to laser to form an image on image formation portions of the image formation layer, wherein a degree of flatness of the surface on the image formation layer side of the fixed printing plate material is not more than 50  $\mu\text{m}$  at the image formation portions.